

cm09-7-33

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF CHESTERFIELD

IN RE: RULES GOVERNING THE COURTS BUILDING AT
9500 COURTHOUSE ROAD, CHESTERFIELD, VIRGINIA
AND AT THE 1917 CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

The Court is of the opinion that the rules set forth below are necessary to properly maintain safety and decorum in all offices, courtrooms and environs within the Courts Building at 9500 Courthouse Road and at the 1917 Chesterfield County Courthouse ("the Courts Buildings"). Accordingly, pursuant to Virginia Code § 8.01-4, it is ORDERED as follows:

1. All persons seeking admission to the Courts Buildings shall be screened by magnetometer and, if requested to do so by the Sheriff or his deputies, shall submit to a personal search before being admitted.
2. No firearms or weapons of any kind shall be brought into the Courts Buildings. The prohibition shall not apply to the Sheriff or his deputies, to conservation police officers (until July 2007 known as game wardens), or to sworn law enforcement officers of the Chesterfield County Police Department, the Virginia State Police, officers of Virginia State University Police Department, or to Chesterfield County Fire Marshals and their deputies, when in the lawful performance of official duties, in uniform, and displaying identification satisfactory to staff of the Courts Buildings.
3. Visitors to the Courts Buildings shall not bring cameras, television, radio, or sound equipment, including tape recorders, into the building except as otherwise provided by law and/or by written Order of this court or the Chesterfield General

District Court. Court reporters, in the performance of their official duties, may bring into the Courts Buildings the usual and necessary recording equipment. No photographs, still or otherwise, shall be taken of jurors entering or leaving the Courts Buildings.

4. Visitors to the Courts Buildings shall not bring cellular or wireless telephones, personal digital assistants (PDA's), pagers, or other similar communication devices into the building, except as provided herein.
 - a) Licensed attorneys who display a current Virginia State Bar card may be allowed to bring such devices into the building. However, any attorney who has such a device in his or her possession must silence the ringer or set it to vibrate while inside the Courts Buildings. The attorney must completely turn off all telephone and pager functions while in any courtroom.
 - b) The Sheriff, his deputies, conservation police officers, and sworn law enforcement officers of the Chesterfield County Police Department, the Virginia State Police, officers of Virginia State University Police Department, and Chesterfield Fire Marshals and their deputies, when in the lawful performance of official duties, and displaying identification satisfactory to staff of the Courts Buildings may be allowed to bring such devices into the building. However, any such official who has such a device in his or her possession must silence the ringer or set it to vibrate while inside the Courts Buildings. The official must completely turn off all telephone and pager functions while in any courtroom.

- c) Jury Commissioners, when entering the premises for the purpose of performing the duties of a jury commissioner.

No one shall be permitted to use such devices to make any video or audio recordings within the Courts Buildings.

5. All entranceways, corridors, and approaches to courtrooms, offices, and other rooms in the Courts Buildings shall be kept clear for the purpose of free access thereto by those employed therein, or those who have business to transact in the Courts Buildings, subject to security measures undertaken by the Sheriff and his deputies with the approval of the Court.
6. The courtroom security deputies shall monitor courtroom ingress and egress at all times. Prior to the opening of Court, the public shall be admitted to each courtroom at the discretion and under the supervision of the courtroom bailiffs. After the public is seated and counsel are in place, the bailiff shall notify the Judge and formally convene the Court session.
7. All activities within the courtrooms and common areas of the Courts Buildings shall be consistent with the decorum required of legal proceedings. No activities that disrupt or have a tendency to disrupt the business of the courts shall be allowed within the Courts Buildings or on their exterior grounds.
8. The area of each courtroom within the rail is reserved for the defendant, counsel, members of the Bar, and Court personnel. No one else will enter without permission of the Court.
9. Items received as evidence shall be handled only by Court personnel. Attorneys, witnesses and jurors may handle evidence only by leave of Court.


10. The Court reserves the right to designate seating accommodations within each courtroom.

11. Smoking is prohibited within the Courts Buildings.

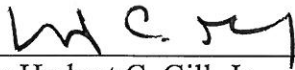
Nothing in these rules is intended to preclude the formulations or application of more restrictive rules regarding criminal trials in these Courts Buildings.

This Order supersedes any previous orders inconsistent herewith.

Enter: 6 / 3 / 09



Chief Judge Michael C. Allen



Judge Herbert C. Gill, Jr.



Judge Frederick G. Rockwell, III



Judge T. J. Hauler